

# **MEMO**

DATE: Tuesday, May 13, 2003

FROM: Jasper County REMC; Rensselaer, Indiana; Member Services Department

RE: Energy Star rating for water heaters

In response to The U.S. Department of Energy's announcement regarding its interest in establishing an "Energy Star" rating for water heaters. It is imperative that the DOE adopt a standard that will not harm the resistance water heater's image, as well as the ease and availability to market electric resistance heaters.

Including electrical resistance water heaters in the Energy Star program will give it significance and relevance to more consumers who can potentially rely on this rating to improve the efficiency of their water heater. However, as an electric cooperative that serves primarily rural residential consumers, our concern is that often, resistance water heaters are the only technology that is practical for use by this segment of our membership. So all methods adopted for this rating should include conventional, resistance water heaters. As you are aware, electric heat pump and solar water heater technologies are still emerging and currently are not perceived to be fully delivering reliability to the same degree that consumers expect from conventional water heaters.